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Update: Massachusetts Health Officials Identify Four Additional Cases of Salmonella Linked to Tomatoes

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced that four (4) additional cases of salmonella in Massachusetts have been linked to the nationwide outbreak associated with certain types of raw tomatoes.

The new cases bring the total number of cases identified in Massachusetts to twenty-one (21). At least five (5) of the cases were hospitalized as a result of their illness.

DPH officials believe all of the reported cases became ill from late May through mid-June. Federal health officials continue to investigate the source of the contamination, however until a source is identified consumers are reminded to avoid certain types of tomatoes.

Since the outbreak began, the FDA has advised consumers to **avoid certain raw red plum, raw red Roma, raw red round tomatoes and products containing these tomatoes**. Tomatoes that are safe to eat include **cherry, grape, tomatoes sold with the vine still attached, and tomatoes grown at home**. These are not likely to be tainted with salmonella.

Tomatoes grown in Massachusetts are considered safe to eat by the FDA.

For more information about the outbreak and how consumers can ensure their tomatoes are safe, please [click here](#) to see the DPH Health Advisory dated 6/20/08. (The advisory is available at the DPH web site at www.mass.gov/dph).

These cases were identified through on-going surveillance involving DNA matching of the outbreak strain with samples submitted by healthcare laboratories throughout Massachusetts. The strain of salmonella identified is Salmonella Saintpaul, a specific sub-type of the bacteria. To date, more than 800 cases linked to certain tomatoes have been reported nationwide [according to the CDC](#). Health officials in 36 states, including New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York have also identified cases.

Breakdown of Cases: (New cases highlighted in orange.)

County	Age (years)	Sex
Essex	41	Male
Middlesex	33	Female
Middlesex	39	Female
Middlesex	5	Female
Middlesex	29	Female
Middlesex	45	Female
Middlesex	25	Male
Norfolk	36	Male
Norfolk	26	Female
Norfolk	18	Female
Norfolk	23	Male
Plymouth	23	Female
Suffolk	19	Male
Suffolk	20	Male
Suffolk	29	Male
Suffolk	25	Male
Suffolk	22	Male
Suffolk	23	Female
Suffolk	27	Male
Suffolk	31	Female
Worcester	38	Male

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